

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

DIVISION OF THE BLIND

FOR THE

YEAR ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 1923

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



DIVISION OF THE BLIND

110 Tremont Street, Boston

ROBERT I. BRAMHALL of Westborough, <i>Director</i> ¹	. . . . .	Term ends 1928
CHARLES B. HAYES of Brookline, <i>Director</i> ²	. . . . .	Term ends 1923
JOHN D. W. BODFISH of Hyannis	. . . . .	Term ends 1924
Mrs. WILLIAM W. TAFF of Brookline	. . . . .	Term ends 1925
WALTER B. SNOW of Watertown	. . . . .	Term ends 1926
ARTHUR C. COGGESHALL of New Bedford	. . . . .	Term ends 1927
EDWARD E. ALLEN of Watertown	. . . . .	Term ends 1928

CENTRAL OFFICE.

The central office is located at 110 Tremont Street, Boston. Applications may be made at the central office:

1. for information in regard to the various general and special agencies already organized which may be utilized for the benefit of the blind.
2. for home teachers' instruction.
3. for employment.
4. for educational and industrial aid.
5. for financial aid.
6. for the sale of products.
7. for co-operation in care of children's cases not already provided for by the Nursery for Blind Babies and Perkins Institution.
8. for information and co-operation in non-medical work for prevention of blindness and conservation of eyesight.

The salesroom for home and shop products of blind labor is located at 110 Tremont Street, Boston, Room 413.

CAMBRIDGE INDUSTRIES.

Workshop for the Blind, 273 Green Street, Cambridge.

Broom making is the principal industry. (For men.)

Woolson House Industries, 277 Harvard Street, Cambridge.

Hand-weaving, chair reseating. (For women.)

"M. C. B." SHOPS.

Workshop for the Blind, 418 Second St., Fall River.

Workshop for the Blind, 159 Moody St., Lowell.

Workshop for the Blind, 30 Eagle st., Pittsfield.

(There is also a salesroom for home products at the Pittsfield shop.)

Workshop for the Blind, 33 Highland St., Worcester.

Chair reseating and broom making are the chief industries of these four shops which employ only men.

¹ Appointed February 1, 1923.

² Resigned January 31, 1923.

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Commissioner of Education.

The Division of the Blind submits herewith its seventeenth annual report covering the fiscal year ending November 30, 1923.

The Division of the Blind was created under the provisions of Chapter 385, Acts of 1906, as amended, and serves the following purposes:

1. Acts as a bureau of information and industrial aid for the purpose of helping the blind find employment and develop home industries.
2. Maintains schools for the industrial training of blind adults and workshops for their employment.
3. Promotes special classes in the public schools for the conservation of vision of children with defective vision.
4. Maintains a register of the blind and of all having seriously defective vision.
5. Assists blind adults engaged in home industries by the loan of material or tools, and by the sale of the articles produced.
6. Ameliorates the condition of the blind through the circulation of books, by visits and other assistance.
7. Administers financial assistance to needy blind adults, but not the permanent support of any individual.

To carry out these purposes, the division is in close touch with a large proportion of the blind of the State. Field workers visit those who are in financial need, or desire employment, or require other assistance. The home teachers visit those desiring instruction in their homes. Workshops are maintained in Cambridge, Fall River, Lowell, Pittsfield, and Worcester. Classes for the conservation of vision are assisted in ten cities. A register of all the blind in the State is maintained at the central office and brought up to date at least annually. Whenever a newly blinded person is reported, his case is investigated and such assistance given as the circumstances may require. Salesrooms for the disposal of the products of the home workers are maintained in Boston and Pittsfield. Exhibitions and sales are held in other cities and towns in cooperation with local organizations or stores. Over \$100,000 was distributed last year as temporary assistance for the needy blind. In addition, the workers arrange for vacation trips, theatre tickets, medical attention, automobile rides, readers, guides, and numerous friendly services.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

From the first the division has regarded the prevention of blindness as one of its important activities. One of the great achievements of this State has been the prevention of blindness from ophthalmia neonatorum. This cause of blindness is now so carefully controlled that new cases of total blindness resulting from it are rarely reported.

All new cases of blindness or seriously defective vision are carefully investigated. During the year, 134 cases were reported from the Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary. Of these, 83 were adults, 74 being new cases, and 9 were already known to the division. The Industrial Accident Board reported 65 cases of loss of sight through industrial accidents. In most cases it was found that only one eye was affected and so the case did not come within the scope of this division.

WORK FOR CHILDREN.

Of primary importance in the work for the blind is *saving from blindness*. Intelligent work with children means conservation of vision, prevention of blindness, or, where physical blindness is inevitable, the arousing of the mind from the darkness

of inactivity. Too often the adult is handicapped for life by causes which probably could have been removed or helped in early childhood. The field workers travel throughout the State finding many who can be considerably helped.

The following statistics relate to children under seventeen years of age.

Old cases dealt with, 811; New cases reported, 348; Registered, 187; Responding to medical or surgical treatment or glasses, and not registered, 157; Pending verification, 4.

Registered cases were reported from the following sources: Schools, 53; Surveys of schools, 41; Mass. Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, 33; Agents of Division of the Blind, 17; Hospitals and Boards of Health, 13; Private oculists, 11; Perkins Institution, 10; Private individuals and agencies, 9.

Visual ability of the 187 registered cases: Totally blind (cannot see light), 7; Practically or partly blind (20/200 or less), 54; Seriously defective eyesight (20/70 or less), 77.

The others have better than 20/70 vision with the exception of 7 children whose amount of vision is questionable on account of their age or illiteracy.

Causes of seriously defective sight, blindness or low vision in newly registered: Myopia, 46; Corneal opacities, 39; Hyperopia, 19; Nystagmus, 19; Congenital cataracts, 12; Atrophy of optic nerve, 10; Albinism, 7; Choroiditis, 7; Dislocation of crystalline lenses, 4; Retinitis Pigmentosa, 3; Amblyopia, 3; Chorio retinitis, 2; Sympathetic ophthalmia, 2; Congenital coloboma of iris, 2; Other congenital defects, 2; Separation of retina, 1; Glioma, 1; Aniridia, 1; Ptosis, 1; Buphthalmos, 1; Micro corneal, 1; Neuro retinitis, 1; Uncertain, 3.

In the interests of newly reported and old cases 1,232 visits have been made to homes and schools primarily for the purpose of explaining to parents the eye conditions and assisting to secure expert examination and suitable schooling.

Admitted to Sight-Saving Classes, 51;

Admitted to Perkins Institution, 17;

Admitted to Boston Nursery for Blind Babies, 3;

Pending Sight-Saving Classes, 55;

Pending Perkins Institution, 7.

The division has had excellent cooperation from school and medical authorities and has also worked with 28 welfare and other organizations.

Last year there were newly reported 16 children of 5 years of age or younger. Of these, three are blind, one from optic atrophy due to spinal meningitis, one from glioma of the retina and the other from buphthalmos. There are four children with corneal opacities resulting from ophthalmia neonatorum. Probably none of these four children will be seriously handicapped when of school age. There are three children with congenital cataracts and one with dislocation of the crystalline lenses, who, when eye operations are completed and glasses fitted, will probably be suitable candidates for sight-saving classes. There are, also, two albino children, who will require the same educational aid. Three other children have congenital defects, and although vision is decidedly subnormal it is impossible as yet to tell the amount of their visual handicap.

To every child requiring education at the school for the blind there are four who need the methods used in the conservation of vision classes. One new class of this kind has opened during the year, which is the second in Cambridge.

Classes are maintained in the following cities:

Boston, 8 classes

J. J. Williams School, Groton Street, Boston, 2 classes

Blackstone School, Blossom Street, Boston, 1 class

Farragut School, Fenwood Rd. & Huntington Ave., Boston, 1 class

Harvard School, Devens St., Charlestown, 1 class

George Frisbie Hoar School, 5th St., So. Boston, 1 class

William Bacon School, Vernon St., Roxbury, 1 class

Paul Jones School, Horace & Byron Sts., East Boston, 1 class

Cambridge, 2 classes

Roberts School, Harvard & Windsor Streets

New Bedford — Sylvia Ann Howland School, 2 classes.

Worcester — Chandler Street School, 2 classes

Brockton — Winthrop School, North Main Street, 1 class
 Chelsea — Williams School — 5th and Walnut Sts., 1 class
 Fall River — Lincoln School, 1 class
 Lowell — Charles Street School, 1 class
 Lynn — O'Keefe School, 1 class
 Salem — Administration Bldg., Broad Street, 1 class

The pupils in these special classes usually have from one-third to one-tenth of the normal amount of vision. Application for admission should be made to the local superintendent of schools or to the office of the Division of the Blind.

EDUCATION OF THE BLIND.

Whenever a child is found with vision so seriously impaired that he cannot be educated in the conservation of vision classes, arrangements are made for his education at Perkins Institution at the expense of the Commonwealth.

With the newly blinded adult, the problem of re-education is largely a problem of individual instruction. Each individual is studied, taking into consideration previous training and experience, special aptitudes, and handicaps other than blindness. In cooperation with the Division of Vocational Education, provision is made for the rehabilitation of some in existing schools. For some, volunteer readers are provided. For others, the tuition is paid at a vocational school, or commercial school. For some, training in the reseating of chairs is provided in the workshops for the blind. For some, tutors are provided for a short period. Where necessary, provision is made for maintenance during training.

As a large proportion of the blind lose their sight in old age, they are unable to avail themselves of these opportunities. For them the services of the home teachers are especially valuable.

HOME TEACHING.

During the year, the five home teachers taught 288 pupils. The home teachers give instruction in reading and writing Braille, reading Moon type, typewriting, elementary subjects, plain sewing, machine stitching, knitting, crocheting, tatting, basketry, housework, reseating chairs, and other forms of hand work. The home teachers, also, in their intimate, sympathetic relations with their pupils, bring cheer and inspiration, "comfort and solace". Even if they cannot teach them an occupation, they can, by their own example, give the newly blinded person hope and courage, and help them to become normal human beings as far as possible.

STATISTICS OF THE HOME TEACHING DEPARTMENT.

Pupils' Statistics

Number of pupils enrolled December 1, 1922, 164
 Number of new pupils taken on during the year, 84
 Number of old pupils returning for more help, 40
 Total enrollment, 288
 Number of pupils finishing work, 118
 Amount of money earned by pupils during year, \$3,201.98

Teachers' Statistics

Number of calls made, 1,448
 Number of lessons given, 2,678
 Number of letters written, 1,275
 Number of cards written, 479
 Number of hours spent in preparation, 2,225
 Number of hours spent in teaching, 3,140
 Number of hours spent in traveling, 3,603
 Number of miles traveled, 30,413

SALESROOM.

The salesroom is maintained as an outlet for the home products of the blind, and for art fabrics woven by blind women in the Woolson House Industries. The articles are sold on their merits, not on a charitable basis. In April the salesroom moved from 4 Park Street to Room 413, 110 Tremont Street, Boston.

During the year 6,176 pieces of work were sent to home workers to make up, 5,978 finished pieces returned by them, examined, and placed on sale, and 1,254 articles, including baskets, tatting, knitting, crocheting, netting, books, rugs, mops and cabinet work, were received from 67 consignors. The amount paid to the home workers was \$3,236.58.

In addition to those using the salesroom as a means of earning, several blind women took advantage of the opportunity to purchase materials at wholesale prices.

Exhibitions and sales, during which demonstrations were given in spinning, weaving, dictaphone operating, basketry, cabinet work, broom manufacture, and machine stitching, were held in the following cities and towns from December 1, 1922 to November 30, 1923:

Dec. 1-9, Board Walk, Mechanics Building, Boston, \$2,537.59

Dec. 11-21, Jays, 11 Temple Place, Boston, \$994.55

Feb. 12, Mardi Gras, Horticultural Hall, Boston, \$30.00

Apr. 17, Nurses Home, Mass. Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, Boston, \$55.10

Apr. 24-25, Lowell, \$1,234.50

May 15-16, Lynn, \$1,061.79

June 5-6, Cambridge, \$872.99

Sept. 13, Manchester, Home of Mrs. Vernon Brown, \$259.50

Oct. 2-6, Brockton Fair, \$90.75

Oct. 21-27, Worcester, Barnard, Sumner & Putnam Co., \$311.55

Nov. 27, Brookline, Home of Mrs. Alexander Pope, \$301.00.

Nov. 17, Somerville Woman's Club, \$38.55

The total sales amounted to \$7,787.87

EMPLOYMENT.

The problem of remunerative employment is one of the most important and, at the same time, one of the most difficult to be solved. In the case of those who had learned a trade or profession before they lost their sight, it may be possible to make use of this training in the same or a similar trade or profession. But there are many who lose their sight in adult life who have no special trade. For such, the problem of re-education is most difficult. They must be prepared for the employment for which they show the most aptitude.

To meet the industrial needs of the adult blind, the division maintains three lines of approach, — home teaching, placement in private industry, and workshops.

For many, especially the women and for those having a second handicap, home employment appears to offer the best solution. While employed at home, and in the midst of his own family and friends, the blind worker lives a more normal life, and his small earnings can be used to best advantage.

For others, after the necessary training, employment may be secured in private industry. In many large factories, there are simple, routine, hand-assembly processes not requiring sight inspection, where the material is brought to and carried from the bench. Many of these jobs can be filled by blind people, if they are given a fair chance. Blind workers have been successfully employed in shoe factories — pulling lasts, inspecting for tacks, and lacing or buttoning shoes; in paper box factories — stripping, turning in, and form folding; in machine shops — in hand assembly work not requiring sight inspection, and snap or plug gauging; in paper factories, as helpers on the beaters; in mica factories — splitting, and in insulation work; in brush factories — making wire section brushes and boxing brushes; in creameries — wrapping and boxing butter, and boxing eggs; in electrical factories — assembling switches, vacuum cleaner parts, hydrometer parts and spark gap points, and in stacking laminations and commutators, in cutting and skinning cables, capping electrode, and in tapping coils. The blind are also successfully employed as tuners in piano factories, as dictaphone operators and switchboard operators in offices, and as wrappers of articles in extract and perfume factories. They can also be employed as watchmen, dishwashers, taggers in stock rooms, and as helpers in the household.

WORK IN COMPETITION WITH THE SEEING.

During the fiscal year the division has been in touch with 245 blind and partly-sighted people seeking employment, of whom 127 were working in gainful occupation on December 1. Eleven who were aided to secure employment during the summer vacation, have resumed their studies at Perkins Institution. Seven are now out of the State, two of whom worked for part of the year. Five have been helped in their homes, one given a private pupil in Braille, one helped in disposing of rugs, one trained in hair weaving, and two provided home work from factories. Several were not feasible candidates for placement. Three are in college and have been provided with volunteer readers, who do all necessary reading. Two were sent to the Pittsfield shop for training in reseating chairs. State licenses for peddling were secured for two men and a loan of \$50 secured for each to start business. Loans were secured for two ex-service men to help buy homes and one man received help in advertising. Two have been given assistance in securing piano tuning jobs. Five refused the jobs offered, and two women left positions to be married. Private lessons in caning were arranged for one man and training in an occupational therapy school for one young woman. Twenty men and women have received suggestions for work, clothes or money, or friendly letters. Forty-two are still pending employment.

The number of blind men and women who are efficiently employable is necessarily small, but all should be given an opportunity to become as nearly self-supporting as possible. Where there is no handicap other than blindness placement is more easily accomplished but it should be understood that many applicants are over fifty years of age, not accustomed to blindness, and unwilling to take small wages or go where work can be secured. It is this group which presents the great difficulty.

Positions were secured for sixty-four different people, but no unusual ventures have been tried, except in the case of one totally blind young man who reams bakelite tubes as carefully and more swiftly than his seeing predecessor on the same machine. A few of the positions found the last year are bending in paper box factory, sizing cuff buttons, assembling and machine work in machine shop, salvaging broken gum in gum factory, assembling in radio plants, stringing tennis rackets, wrapping in candy factory, assembling in book binding, assembling of roller skates, mother's helper, housekeeper, farmer, lumper, errand boy, bank messenger, kitchen helper, dish washer, hospital orderly, and dictaphone operator.

The depression in the shoe and stocking industry closed the doors against several of the most feasible processes for blind operators, but the interest in radio gives employment in some departments of the wireless manufacturing. The factories visited during the year included paper box, shoe, binderies, electrical supplies, brush, optical, paper cups, waterproof paper, valve, screen, wooden and reed basket, heel, leather washer, cuff button, jewelry, sausage, cotton waste, scales, lithograph, screw, paper, piano, wrench, reed furniture, rubber goods, celluloid, addressing machine, bleacheries, machine shop, radio, crackers, electroplating, soap, toy, brass parts, sheeting, and electric lamps.

Careful surveys of factories were made in Leominster, Whitman, Lynn, Attleboro, Plainville, Holyoke, Marlborough, Worcester, Salem, and Lowell, but the larger proportion of the factories visited are in or within a radius of ten miles of Boston. Over 150 factories have been visited and double that number approached by letter or telephone. Stores, restaurants, hotels, laundries, and warehouses were visited and many of the candidates for employment were registered from time to time with the Clearing House of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union, and the Municipal and State Free Employment Bureaus. The placement work is of such an individual and specialized nature in the case of blind would-be-employees that most of the work must be done by this division. The division is, however, grateful to the above agencies for interested and willing co-operation.

WORKSHOPS FOR THE BLIND.

For a third group the division maintains small workshops in Cambridge, Fall River, Lowell, Pittsfield, and Worcester. In these shops the industries are broom making and reseating chairs for the men, and weaving art fabrics and reseating chairs for the women.

The past year has been a critical one in the history of the workshops. In 1922 the legislature appropriated \$80,000 to pay off a deficit that had accumulated in the Cambridge Industries for Men. When the books were closed on May 31, 1923, it was found that another deficit, amounting to about \$60,000 had accumulated in eighteen months. The manufacturing loss for six months amounted to \$33,209.87 in addition to the State appropriation for overhead expenses, amounting to \$22,714.43, making a total cost to the Commonwealth of \$55,924.30. During the same period, the 89 blind employees received in wages \$30,377.50.

In view of the fact that it was apparent that the appropriation for the maintenance of these industries had been exhausted, the Comptroller, on June 30, 1923, directed the division to incur no further liabilities under that appropriation. After a conference with the Commission on Administration and Finance, at which it was brought out that no additional funds for continuing the industries would be made available, it was voted to discontinue the Cambridge Industries for Men. Provision was made, through money made available by the Governor and Council from the Emergency Fund, for providing financial aid for these unemployed blind men during the period of readjustment. Since that time the names of some of the older men have been placed on the monthly relief schedule. Others have found employment in private industry. A portion of the group has as yet not been placed in industry. The industrial depression has greatly handicapped these men in securing positions.

After an investigation of the situation, the Governor and Council made funds available for reopening a small shop, limited to twenty men. This shop was reopened on November 19, 1923.

WOOLSON HOUSE INDUSTRIES.

In addition to the Cambridge Industries for Men, the division maintains in Cambridge the Woolson House Industries, where seventeen blind women are employed. Art fabrics are woven on hand looms and made up into table runners, scarfs, babies' bibs, bridge sets, and bags. One worker spins homespun yarn on an old-fashioned spinning wheel. Chair reseating is also carried on in this shop. The Woolson House Industries were maintained in 1923 at a cost to the Commonwealth of \$5,880.77, or a per capita cost of \$345.92. The amount paid to the blind in wages was \$6,000.59.

LOCAL WORKSHOPS.

The division also maintains small workshops for men in Fall River, Lowell, Pittsfield, and Worcester. The workshop in Fall River carries on two industries, — reseating chairs and manufacturing corn brooms. In 1923, there were thirteen men employed in this shop. The cost to the Commonwealth of operating the shop was \$10,119.63, including nearly \$4,000.00 in bills accumulated from previous years. The amount paid to the blind in wages was \$6,030.55. The men also received \$3,204.00 in aid from the relief appropriation.

The workshop in Lowell gave employment to eight men in reseating chairs. The cost to the Commonwealth for operating expenses was \$4,593.41. The men received in wages \$5,017.07 and \$1,284.53 from the relief appropriation.

The workshop in Pittsfield gave employment to about twenty blind persons in reseating chairs and making corn brooms. This shop also serves as an apprentice school for the training of blind workers for the other shops. There is a salesroom maintained in connection with this shop to assist the home workers in the western part of the State in the sale of their products. The net sales in the salesroom from December 1, 1922 to November 30, 1923 amounted to \$779.08. The cost to the Commonwealth for operating expenses was \$9,745.91. The men received in wages \$9,979.78 and \$3,098.73 from the relief appropriation.

The workshop in Worcester furnished employment for nine blind men in reseating chairs. The shop had a very busy season and was able to send work out to some of the blind who were working in their homes. The cost to the Commonwealth for operating expenses was \$5,017.84. The men received \$5,815.16 in wages and \$1,126.02 from the relief appropriation.

FINANCIAL AID.

The law providing for financial relief for the needy blind has been in operation four years and during this period the appropriation had increased from \$65,000 to \$93,000. At the beginning it was estimated after a careful study that about twenty per cent of the blind would need aid and to date this percentage has kept about the same. Increases in the appropriation have been due chiefly to the higher cost of living and to the increased needs of the recipients. This relief has kept many out of the almshouse and made many more welcome members in their own families. The division has taken advantage of the provisions of chapter 273, section 20, of the General Laws, to force many children to provide for their blind parents. The object has been to encourage relatives in so far as possible to support or contribute towards the support of the blind member of the family. Relief is intended to supplement and not to support the individual.

Since the inauguration of the Massachusetts plan of relief two states have followed its example, Connecticut in 1921, and Minnesota in 1923. In the majority of states where pensions are in vogue the administration has proved both less effective and more expensive.

While Massachusetts has no definite law regarding the administration and distribution of financial aid, the division has been obliged to formulate a policy. To be eligible for relief, an applicant must have less than one-tenth normal vision, must have resided in this State for the five consecutive years immediately preceding the date of the application, or have become blind while residing in the State, and must be in need of assistance. The question of need is governed wholly by existing conditions in each individual case. During the past year the division granted aid to 749 blind individuals out of a blind population of 3,888. The maximum amount granted was \$300.00 a year and the minimum \$48.00, but the majority received \$120.00 per annum. Individuals who are self-supporting, mendicants, or inmates of public institutions or private institutions other than homes for the blind, are not eligible for financial assistance.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES.

The division has been in touch, during the fiscal year 1922-23, with 3,727 blind or partially blind persons, 572 of whom were reported for the first time. This number includes, in addition to our register of blind and partially blind persons, a large group of children with seriously defective eyesight.

Service has been rendered to 2,498 individuals, many of whom have been helped in several ways, as follows:

1. Training given or expenses provided during training to 297.
2. Employment given or secured for 222.
3. Home industry secured, fostered by loans, equipment, licenses, use of salesroom, provision of guide, etc., for 227.
4. Information and advice on medical care, special education, occupations, relief, Federal pensions, boarding places, etc., given to 1,522.
5. Reported to general agencies, 59.
6. Recreations, symphony and other concerts, outings, vacations, gifts, music transcription, volunteer readers, etc., given by others through the Division to 487.
7. Financial aid has been granted to 749.
8. Visited in survey work, no special need, 999.

COOPERATING AGENCIES.

The division has received valuable assistance through the cooperation of volunteer workers and public and private charitable organizations. Especial mention should be made of the splendid cooperation of the Massachusetts Association for Promoting the Interests of the Adult Blind, Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary, the Worcester Memorial Homes for the Blind, the Flower Mission, and Perkins Institution.

Through the kindness of the Flower Mission about 200 baskets of fruit, candy, and preserves are distributed among the blind of greater Boston at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. At Easter, rose geraniums are also distributed. Because each basket seems packed with such thoughtful care, each fortunate recipient has come to feel the gift a very friendly and personal thing and so the pleasure given is twofold. The sweet-smelling little plants are especially appreciated by the shut-in blind.

Through the kindness of friends the division has been able to provide concert and theatre tickets for 53 blind persons and their guides.

The Massachusetts Association for Promoting the Interests of the Adult Blind maintains the James A. Woolson House, at 277 Harvard Street, Cambridge, and the Annette P. Rogers House, at 69 Thomas Park, South Boston. The Association also provides rent-free the shop for the Woolson House Industries.

The James A. Woolson House has continued to cooperate with the division in a helpful manner in providing a home for several of the girls working in the Woolson House Industries and in providing a temporary home for blind women while trying out new positions, or while on a short visit to the city. Through the cooperation of the house committee vacations have been provided for twenty-two blind women coming from all parts of the State. The house has also been a social center for many of the blind women living in the vicinity of Cambridge.

The Annette P. Rogers House, a club house for blind men in South Boston, continues to make a valuable contribution to the work of the blind in this State. For eight years this club house and social center for blind men has been a most helpful auxiliary to the work of the division. Entirely maintained by funds from Massachusetts Association for Promoting the Interests of the Adult Blind, this house serves the blind men of the Commonwealth in many helpful purposes. It is one of the few institutions of its kind in our country. Social activities constitute one of the features of the house, but the most important and constructive force is the opportunity for our newly blinded men to become acquainted with the methods of instruction as well as the resources for work and useful employment for the blind. It also is the means of giving this particular group of blind people a right start in their new life and secures for them the courage that they so much need in the first months of blindness. As some one has so aptly said, it teaches them "how to be blind" and still believe that they are a useful part in the great scheme of life.

In addition, the Massachusetts Association for Promoting the Interests of the Adult Blind has been most helpful in loans and gifts of money for worthy purposes, and in providing for activities that could not well be carried on at public expense.

Whitcomb Hall, a home for blind men at 51 Harvard Street, Worcester, and the Jennie A. Partridge House (Worcester Memorial Home for the Blind) at 81 Elm Street, Worcester, are maintained by a private corporation known as the Memorial Homes for the Blind. The Jennie A. Partridge House at present has a family of twelve members and Whitcomb Hall a family of ten. Four of the men living at Whitcomb Hall are employed in the workshop located on the premises. These homes cooperate with the division in every way possible.

The staff of the division has cooperated with the Graduate School of Education of Harvard University by giving lectures in a course on "The Education of the Blind". Thirteen students, coming largely from outside Massachusetts, one having been sent by the Japanese Government, attended the course.

Mr. Edward E. Allen, director of Perkins Institution, and a member of our Advisory Board, conducted the course. Arrangements were made for the students to live at Perkins Institution, where they had easy access to the literature for the required reading and opportunities for practice teaching and for association with the blind. The students made a careful study of the work of the blind carried on in this State. In connection with the course a two-day conference of the home teachers of New England was held at Perkins Institution in December, 1922.

FINANCIAL REPORT.

*Receipts and Expenditures December 1, 1922 to November 30, 1923.**Receipts.*

Commonwealth of Massachusetts	
Appropriation for State Home Teachers	\$9,511 13
Appropriation for Relief	93,000 00
Appropriation for Relief Additional	8,000 00
Appropriation for Special Emergency Industries	2,500 00
Appropriation for Special Emergency Industries	10,000 00
Appropriation for Sight-Saving Classes	11,100 00
Appropriation for General Expense	68,645 94
Appropriation for Industries	70,000 00
Special refund	36 25
	<hr/>
	\$272,793 32
Revenue from Local Shops — Fall River, Lowell, Pittsfield and Worcester	59,218 46
Revenue from sale of home work stock and consignments	5,757 89
Revenue from Cambridge Industries	164,629 42
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	\$502,399 09
Cambridge Industries, samples distributed	3 53
Cambridge Industries, equipment	250 00
	<hr/>
	\$502,652 62

Disbursements.

Payroll — seeing	
Central Office	\$15,019 98
Local Shops	6,707 10
Home Work Department	648 44
Industrial Department	17,626 04
Home Teachers	11 50
	<hr/>
	\$40,013 06
Payroll — blind	
Central Office	\$8,231 84
Local Shops	26,842 56
Home Work Department	3,339 58
Industrial Department	49,077 53
Home Teachers	4,800 00
	<hr/>
	92,291 51
Relief (749 persons)	104,589 64
Sight-Saving Classes (21 classes)	11,100 00
Services of guides	
Home Teachers	\$1,326 85
Central Office	386 05
Industrial Aid	4,766 08
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	6,478 98
Board of apprentices and pupils	1,183 57
Special instruction	155 90
Merchandise	
Home Teachers — mdse. for pupils	\$446 23
Industrial Aid	213 15
Local Shops	43,896 39
Cambridge Industries	158,294 39
Home Work Department	1,613 64
	<hr/>
	204,463 80

